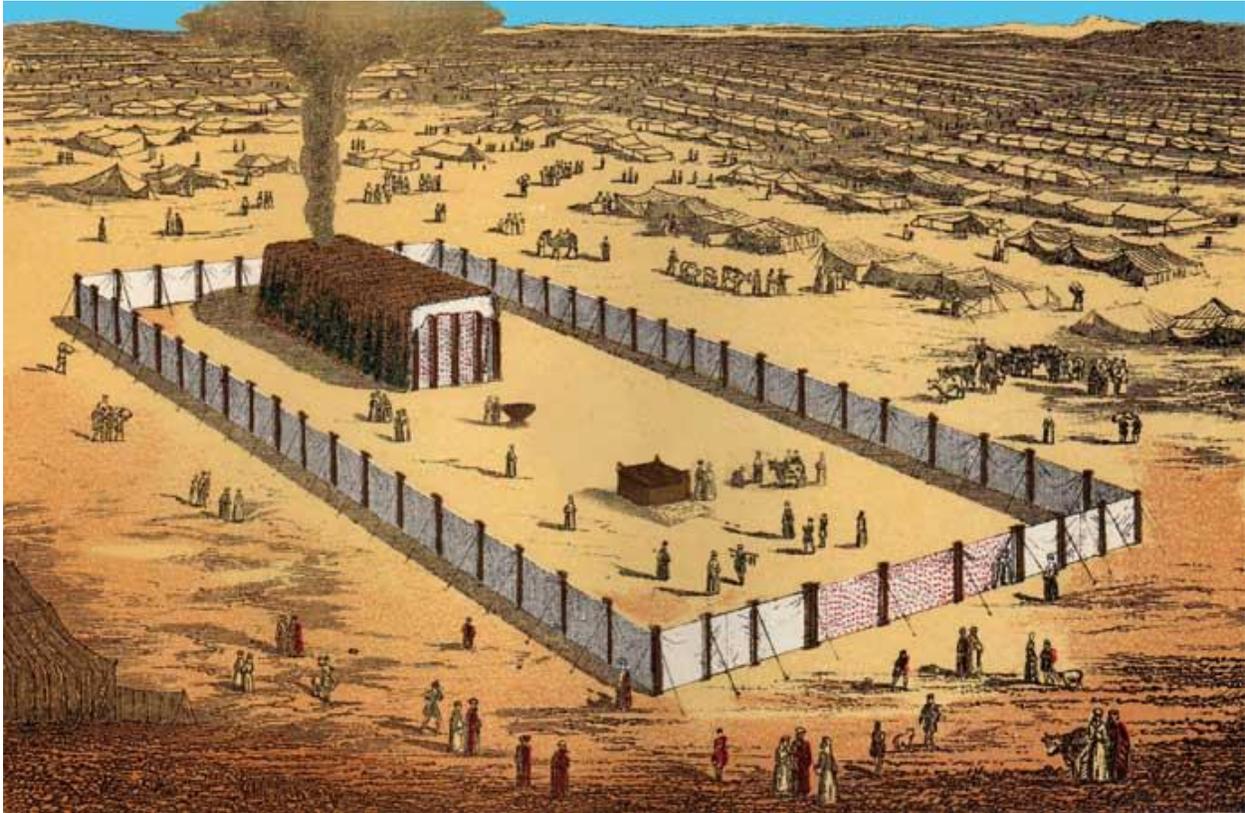


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LESSON #6

CHRIST COMING TO HIS TEMPLE

PART 2



MATTHEW 25:1-13.

INTRODUCTION

In many parts of the East, wedding festivities are held in the evening. The bridegroom goes forth to meet his bride and bring her to his home. By torchlight the bridal party proceed from her father's house to his own, where a feast is provided for the invited guests. In the scene upon which Christ looks, a company are awaiting the appearance of the bridal party, intending to join the procession.

Lingering near the bride's house are ten young women robed in white. Each carries a lighted lamp and a small flagon for oil.

All are anxiously watching for the appearance of the bridegroom. But there is a delay. Hour after hour passes; the watchers become weary and fall asleep. At midnight the cry is heard, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." The sleepers, suddenly awaking, spring to their feet. They see the procession moving on, bright with torches and glad with music. They hear the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride." {COL 406.1}. Let us pray:

Holy Father, I ask for the outpouring of your holy spirit upon all who study this lesson. That understanding, wisdom might be

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given to each one. Forgive our sins and cleanse our hearts that we might be worthy. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your son. Amen.

NOTE: The city of New Jerusalem is said to be the bride. If you look at Rev. 3: 12 John declares that the overcomers of the church of Philadelphia are also given the name New Jerusalem. This means that those who overcome will not only sit with Christ in the Fathers throne, but will also be His bride, and 1st Peter 2: 9 tells us that they are also Royal (high) Priests!

I have never known a city to literally have a voice and speak. Always when a city speaks it has reference to its constituency. More specifically, the voice of the rulers, or those in authority.

Revelation 3: 12, 13.

“Him that overcometh **will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him** the name of my God, and **the name of the city of my God, new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.”** It is clear, these are a group of people called the New Jerusalem, and they are Christ’s Bride. “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

NOTE: This is the reward of the church of Philadelphia, the church at the time of 1844, but the promise is to “him that overcometh.” Now listen to the promise. You will be “**a pillar in the temple**”, you will “go no more out”, Christ will write “the name of” His “God on them, and the name of the city of” His “God, which is **New Jerusalem**, which cometh down out of heaven from My God:

and I will write upon him My new name.” I am sure you have heard the expression, “he is a pillar in the community.” The overcomers are pillars in the community of heaven; they enjoy many benefits, one of which is being the Bride of Christ! Notice what the prophet declares about them.

Early Writings, 15: 1.

“The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. ...

The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name.” (See also 1T. 59: 1, 2). It is obvious that these overcomers that are called the **New Jerusalem are the 144,000**.

NOTE: This statement is nearly a direct quote from Rev. 3: 12, 13, with the exception of the mention of the 144,000. Notice that the 144,000 are said to be “living saints.” This must mean that the 144,000 do not die before Christ coming. Mrs. White confirms the number by verifying it when she says in number 144,000. In Rev. 7 the 144,000 are mentioned and then verified by 12,000 being selected from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. This number is therefore literal and not symbolic. Also I know of no place in scripture where a number is used symbolically to represent a different number. If you know of any such instance please share it with me.

Prophets and Kings P. 591: 1.

“As the people of God afflict their souls before Him, pleading for purity of heart, the command is given, "Take away the filthy garments," and the encouraging words are spoken, "Behold, I have caused thine iniquity

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to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." Zechariah 3:4. ...The despised remnant are clothed in glorious apparel, nevermore to be defiled by the corruptions of the world."

NOTE: That glorious robe of light lost in the Garden of Eden is finally restored to man. Glorious thought, wonderful reality, communion with God is again ours to enjoy. Let us continue in Prophets and Kings, Par. 2.

"They sing the new song before the throne, that song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand which were redeemed from the earth. 'These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the **first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.**'"

Now is reached the complete fulfillment of the words of the Angel: "Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for **they are men wondered at:** for, behold, I will bring forth My Servant the Branch." Zechariah 3:8. Christ is revealed as the Redeemer and Deliverer of His people. Now indeed are the remnant 'men wondered at,' as the tears and humiliation of their pilgrimage give place to joy and honor in the presence of God and the Lamb."

NOTE: First fruits. What does this mean? In Palestine, during the Passover feast, the participants were required to bring from the fields a portion of the early ripened grain. As it always happens when grain ripens there are spots where some of the grain ripens before the rest. These spots are called the first fruits. This was gathered and brought to Jerusalem, to the temple and given to the Priest as the first fruits. This grain was presented to the Lord as a wave offering or wave sheaf. It rep-

resented the harvest that was to come. By dedicating the wave offering to the Lord, just so was the whole harvest represented as the Lords. It was the guarantee that the whole harvest would ripen. Is the first fruits the whole harvest? No they are not; they are the first ripened grains. We are told that the first fruits are a representation of the 144,000. How can this be all of the living saved as some believe? No they are the first to be dedicated to the Lord, the first to gain the victory over all sin, at the end of time. As Jesus and those raised from the dead at his resurrection are the first fruits of the dead so are the 144,000 the first fruits of the living! Just as those raised with Christ are not the whole harvest of the dead, so the 144,000 are not the whole harvest of the living, but are a representation of that harvest, they are not the whole harvest, and because they are a representation of the living saints they themselves do not taste of death!

Early Writings, P. 251: 1.

"Jesus sent His angels to direct the minds of the disappointed ones to the most holy place, where He had gone to cleanse the sanctuary and make a special atonement for Israel. Jesus told the angels that all who found Him would understand the work which He was to perform. **I saw that while Jesus was in the most holy place He would be married to the New Jerusalem;** and after His work should be accomplished in the holiest, He would descend to the earth in kingly power and take to Himself the precious ones who had patiently waited His return."

NOTE: This has to be a description of the bride whose voice was heard in the parable of the ten virgins. See Col. P. 405: 2.

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I ASK YOU, WHO IS THE BRIDE WHOSE VOICE WAS HEARD BY THE SLEEPING VIRGINS?

NOTE: It is the 144,000 that are the Bride, or the Lambs wife. Who is it that hears the Bride's voice? It is the virgins who had the lamps and were sleeping. These are the church members today. This shows us the two great divisions of God's people, the Bride, the Lambs Wife, and the guests at the wedding! "Revelation 19:9. If guests, they cannot be represented also as the bride." {**GC 426.2**}

The marriage takes place before Jesus leaves the most holy place. What an amazing revelation. The marriage of the Lamb. It is said that in marriage they twain shall be one flesh. What an amazing thought, to be one with Christ as He is one with the father. See John 14: 20; 17: 21. What infatuation does sin have over us to make us sacrifice such an awesome position with God? How can I express words to convey this wonderful truth? Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace good will to man. What a terrible hold sin has upon man to make the lost give up such a blessed hope as this, to be the bride, the Lambs wife! Glory, amen.

Christ's Object Lessons, P. 405: 2.

"The ten maidens seize their lamps and begin to trim them, in haste to go forth. But five have neglected to fill their flasks with oil. They did not anticipate so long a delay, and they have not prepared for the emergency. In distress they appeal to their wiser companions saying, "Give us of your oil; for our lamps are going out." (Margin.) But the waiting five, with their freshly trimmed lamps, have emptied their flagons. They have no oil to spare, and they answer, "Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to

them that sell, and buy for yourselves." {COL 405.2}

"He told His disciples the story of the ten virgins, by their experience illustrating the experience of the church that shall live just before His second coming. {COL 406.2}

The two classes of watchers represent the two classes who profess to be waiting for their Lord. They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith. By the lamps is represented the word of God. The psalmist says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." {COL 406:3}.

That I May Know Him, P. 350: 2, 3.

"Let none follow the example of the foolish virgins and think that it will be safe to wait until the crisis comes before gaining a preparation of character to stand in that time. It will be **too late** to seek for the righteousness of Christ when the guests are called in and examined. **Now is the time to put on the righteousness of Christ --the wedding garment that will fit you to enter into the marriage supper of the Lamb.** In the parable, the foolish virgins are represented as begging for oil and failing to receive it at their request. **This is symbolic of those who have not prepared themselves by developing a character to stand in a time of crisis.** It is as if they should go to their neighbors and say, give me your character or I shall be lost. Those that were wise could not impart their oil to the flickering lamps of the foolish virgins. **Character is not transferable.** It is not to be bought or sold; it is to be acquired. The Lord has given to every individual an opportunity to obtain a righteous character . . . , **but He has not provided a way by which one human agent may impart to another the**

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character which he has developed. . . .
{TMK 350.2}

The day is coming, and it is close upon us, when **every phase of character will be revealed by special temptation**, and have **Those who remain true to principle, who exercise faith to the end, will be those who have proved true under test and trial during the previous hours of their probation, and have formed characters after the likeness of Christ.** It will be those who have cultivated close acquaintance with Christ who, through His wisdom and grace, are partakers of the divine nature. But no human being can give to another, heart devotion and noble qualities of mind, and supply his deficiencies with moral power.” {TMK 350.3}.

NOTE: It is obvious that the extra oil is a character like Christ’s. It is obedience to all of God’s laws and statutes! This obedience (character) must be realized now before the crisis comes to be counted as oil in the lamps! **Reader, understand, we have no time to dally! It is a serious time in which we live. Christ’s coming is emanate, don’t put victory off longer. Plead with Jesus for the preparation needed now to stand later.**

Christ’s object lessons, P. 408: 1.

“From the two olive trees the golden oil was emptied through the golden pipes into the bowl of the candlestick, and thence into the golden lamps that gave light to the sanctuary. So from the holy ones that stand in God’s presence His Spirit is imparted to the **human instrumentalities** who are consecrated to His service.

NOTE: The Lord here uses the sanctuary as a visual aid to demonstrate exactly what happens in the soul temple or sanctuary

and so it is with every facet of the sanctuary service. Let’s continue in Christ’s Object Lessons:

“The mission of the two anointed ones is to communicate to God’s people that heavenly grace which alone can make His word a lamp to the feet and a light to the path. ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.’” Zechariah 4:6. {COL 408.1}.

Christ’s Object Lessons, P. 411: 1.

“The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit’s working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up. This class are represented also by the stony-ground hearers. They receive the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles. Its influence is not abiding. The Spirit works upon man’s heart, according to his desire and consent implanting in him a new nature; but the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. Their service to God degenerates into a form. “They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, **but they will not do them;** for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.” Ezekiel 33:31. The apostle Paul points out that this will be the special characteristic of those who live just before Christ’s second coming. He

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says, "In the last days perilous times shall come: **for men shall be lovers of their own selves; . . . lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.**" 2 Timothy 3:1-5. {COL 411.1}.

NOTE: We have many excuses like, "you can't overcome all sin, it is impossible to become perfect, Jesus will just have to change me at the last trump, it's just a little sin, and when the latter rain is poured out, then the holy spirit will cleans me of all sin." By the time of the latter rain is will too late for church members! The problem is we love our pet sins more than we love the Lord Jesus! Lord help us to hate all sin.

Page 112 of COL: 1.

"The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied." {COL 412.1}.

"The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied." {COL 412.1}.

Reflecting Christ, P. 211: 3.

"The light of His glory--**His character--is to shine forth in His followers.** Thus they are to glorify God, **to lighten the path to the Bridegroom's home, to the city of God, to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**" {RC 211.3}.

NOTE: Compare John 17: 22 with the word glory, with Exodus33: 18, 19 and Exodus 34: 6, 7. These are the character traits of God! These must be manifest in our lives. God's character is His glory. This glory (character) is to be revealed in us.

Christ's Object Lessons, P 415: 3.

God's character "has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. **At this time** a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known." {COL 415.3}.

NOTE: His character, His glory, his divinity, these are the elements in the last message that is to be given to the world. But just talking about them is not enough; the message has to be assimilated and become a part of our very being. Pay attention to this next.

Christ Object Lessons, P. 415: 5, 416: 1.

"The last rays of merciful light, **the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love.**" (COL. 415. 5}.

NOTE: to reveal something like character it must be lived out in our lives—it must be incorporated into our very being—then it is revealed without controversy. A profession means nothing except as it is revealed in a changed life. Are our lives proving our professions to be a lie? The world is tired of false professions. Let's continue in COL. PP. 115&116.

"The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them. {COL 115.5}

"The light of the Sun of Righteousness is to shine forth in good works--in words of truth and deeds of holiness. {COL 416.1}.

Christ's Object Lessons, P. 384:1, 3.

"The sanctification of the soul by the working of the Holy Spirit is the implanting

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of Christ's nature in humanity. Gospel religion is **Christ in the life--a living, active principle**. It is the grace of Christ revealed in character and wrought out in good works. The principles of the gospel cannot be disconnected from any department of practical life. Every line of Christian experience and labor is to be a **representation of the life of Christ**. {COL 384.1}.

“It is not possible for the heart in which Christ abides to be destitute of love. If we love God because He first loved us, we shall love all for whom Christ died. We cannot come in touch with divinity without coming in touch with humanity; for in Him who sits upon the throne of the universe, divinity and humanity are combined. Connected with Christ, we are connected with our fellow men by the golden links of the chain of love.”

NOTE: just as humanity was combined in Christ, so must divinity be combined in us!

Christ's Object Lessons, P. 420: 2.

“The revelation of His own glory in the form of humanity will bring heaven so near to men that the beauty adorning **the inner temple** will be seen **in every soul in whom the Saviour dwells**. Men will be captivated by the glory of an abiding Christ. And in currents of praise and thanksgiving from the many souls thus won to God, glory will flow back to the great Giver.” {COL 420.2}.

NOTE: Once again the sanctuary is used to illustrate more clearly what is to happen in the soul sanctuary. It is a most thrilling study when the sanctuary God had Moses build is studied as an allegory, or visual aid to understanding what the Father intends to accomplish in our very person. These lessons are presented with this thought in mind.

There is a chapter in “**Early Writings**,” beginning on page 269 called **The Shaking**. I will add to this lesson as an addendum just in case you may not have the book. It is a description of the experience of the 144,000. All should understand what is expected of the bride of Christ!

What I have done in the last two lessons is to show the connection between Daniel 7: 13; Daniel 8:14; Malachi 3: 1-5; Matthew 25: 1-13; and Revelation chapter 14. It is evident that the message of Christ coming to His temple in heaven also has its fulfilling in Christ also coming to the soul temple, to the mind of each one who will open the door and let Him enter. Jesus told the Jews to clean the inside of the pot and the outside would take care of itself, meaning the actions would be clean also. When the mind is clean the actions will also be pure and clean. The body will not do bad things because our actions are controlled by the mind. Then it is that doing good will be easy.

May God bless and keep us all and give everyone understanding as we study His Word!

Your brother in Christ

Virgil

ADDENDIUM

EARLY WRITINGS, PP.269-273.

“The Shaking”

“I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspira-

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tion fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them. {EW 269.1}

Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God and murmur against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness. {EW 269.2}

As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them. {EW 270.1}

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the

heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people. {EW 270.2}

I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified. {EW 270.3}

Said the angel, "List ye!" Soon I heard a voice like many musical instruments all sounding in perfect strains, sweet and harmonious. It surpassed any music I had ever heard, seeming to be full of mercy, compassion, and elevating, holy joy. It thrilled through my whole being. Said the angel, "Look ye!" My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit. The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers. Their countenances expressed the severe conflict which they had endured, the agonizing struggle they had passed through. Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, now shone with the light and glory of heaven. **They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude and holy, sacred joy.** {EW 270.4}.

NOTE: I am constrained as I write this to stop and comment. This is the fulfillment of the new covenant of Jer. 31: 31-34. The

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law has been written on the stony tables of our hearts! Their hearts have been changed to hearts of flesh. The guardian angels have been doubled for each overcomer. That sacred beauty that envelops the Ark of the Covenant is now manifest in the human! The Ark of the Covenant, in the most holy place is now transferred to the human! The two angels on each end of the mercy seat have taken their positions on each side of the overcomer, and are facing each other, reverently looking into the hearts of these overcomers! Truly these are men wondered at, not only by angels but by men also Zac. 3: 8. The glory of God above the mercy seat (Shekinah Glory) positioned above the law of God with the two cherubim is now revealed in the human! These are the first fruits of the living. Let's continue:

"The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks. Evil angels still pressed around them, but could have no power over them." {EW 271.1}.

NOTE: Now the pen of inspiration describes the work performed by the overcomers in bringing in the rest of the harvest of the living that are to be saved. Let's continue:

"I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power. It had effect. Many had been bound; some wives by their husbands, and some children by their parents. The honest who had been prevented from hearing the truth now eagerly laid hold upon it. All fear of their relatives was gone,

and the truth alone was exalted to them. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, "It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel." {EW 271.2}.

NOTE: This paragraph brings to view a great number who respond to the loud cry of Rev. 18. The message of the 144,000. These are those who have been kept from the truth because of outside influences. Some are Adventist, some are non-Adventist, it matters not. The 144,000 are the bride; these who come into the truth are the guests at the wedding and are part of the great multitude of Rev. 14: 9. Let's continue:

"Great power was with these chosen ones. Said the angel, "Look ye!" My attention was turned to the wicked, or unbelievers. They were all astir. The zeal and power with the people of God had aroused and enraged them. Confusion, confusion, was on every side. I saw measures taken against the company who had the light and power of God. Darkness thickened around them; yet they stood firm, approved of God, and trusting in Him. I saw them perplexed; next I heard them crying unto God earnestly. Day and night their cry ceased not: "Thy will, O God, be done! If it can glorify Thy name, make a way of escape for Thy people! Deliver us from the heathen around about us. They have appointed us unto death; but Thine arm can bring salvation." These are all the words which I can bring to mind. All seemed to have a deep sense of their unworthiness and manifested entire submission to the will of God; yet, like Jacob, every one, without an exception, was earnestly pleading and wrestling for deliverance. {EW 272.1}

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Soon after they had commenced their earnest cry, the angels, in sympathy, desired to go to their deliverance. But a tall, commanding angel suffered them not. He said, "The will of God is not yet fulfilled. They must drink of the cup. They must be baptized with the baptism." {EW 272.2}

Soon I heard the voice of God, which shook the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. Buildings were shaken down on every side. I then heard a triumphant shout of victory, loud, musical, and clear. I looked upon the company, who, a short time before, were in such distress and bondage. Their captivity was turned. A glorious light shone upon them. How beautiful they then looked! All marks of care and weariness were gone, and health and beauty were seen in every countenance. Their enemies, the heathen around them, fell like dead men; they could not endure the light that shone upon the delivered, holy ones. This light and glory remained upon them, until Jesus was seen in the clouds of heaven, and the faithful, tried company were changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, from glory to glory. And the graves were opened, and the saints came forth, clothed with immortality, crying, "Victory over death and the grave"; and together with the living saints they were caught up to meet their Lord in the air, while rich, musical shouts of glory and victory were upon every immortal tongue." {EW 272.3}